

Attorney Docket No.: **DC0258US.NP**
Inventors: **Supattapone and Deleault**
Serial No.: **10/553,591**
Filing Date: **January 17, 2006**
Page 3

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new): An isolated RNA fraction that enhances the amplification of PrP^{sc}, said RNA fraction obtained by:

- (a) isolating RNA from non-human mammalian brain tissue;
- (b) passing the RNA through an oligo dT column to obtain a fraction of RNA that does not bind to the oligo dT column; and
- (c) separating the fraction of RNA of (b) by ultrafiltration to obtain a fraction of RNA of greater than 300 nucleotides.

Claim 9 (new): A kit for identifying the presence of PrP^{sc} comprising the RNA fraction of claim 8.